

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 19th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 6.00 PM
ZOOM

Present :

Apologies : B Laird, J Hegele, M Serneabat, H Hourston, H Xu, R Campbell, H Pentleton, L Campbell

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, J Small

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

L Brady noted that, with Tier 4 restrictions due to come into effect in Glasgow on 20/11/2020, the McIntyre building will be closing but all SRC services will continue to run with staff working from home.

L Brady encouraged Council members to have their reports reflect only their most pertinent matters and action points, so as to aid the efficiency of Council meetings. He encouraged Council members to offer feedback on this process if they have any.

L Brady asked Council members to ensure that their Council position is in their email signature. He said a template will be circulated to Council members with what their email signature should look like.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes approved with the following corrections to be made –

L Schorrlepp noted that on p18, there is a mistaken mention of specialisation courses being available to international students. This should have stated that specialisation courses were only available to BSc students, and only if they took specific modules, rather than core modules.

E Lindquist noted on p11 that the statement “feedback from students was that classes within the Arts did not need to be physically taught on campus” is incorrect. This should be removed and updated to say E Lindquist does not recall who said what about the physical teaching spaces for the Arts College, but students do indeed want physical spaces for teaching. The part which states E Lindquist will follow this matter up is correct.

L Brady noted, with reference to an action point regarding following up with D McConnell for more clarity on why Facebook Advertisements had been banned for Candidates during SRC Elections, that this matter had been resolved by the information provided by J Small, in that Facebook does not allow advertisements which are political in nature.

3) Freshers' Week Report – Amy McKenzie Smith

Freshers Week 2020 took place between the 12th and 18th September. A McKenzie Smith is pleased with how the week went and believes it was a success, particularly considering the challenging circumstances presented by the pandemic. She noted that Glasgow University was one of the UK's only universities to stage on-campus events safely and successfully. The week was designed with accessibility being a key priority and, as such, there was a blended approach to events, with some taking place physically and others online. A McKenzie would like to thank all SRC staff, Sabbatical Officers, the SRC Communications team and the Freshers' Helpers for their hard work in putting on the event. A McKenzie opened the floor to questions.

L Brady thanked A McKenzie for all her hard work in the organization and delivery of this year's Freshers' Week. He also expressed thanks to Council members who took up roles as Freshers' Helpers for their hard work.

P Aasen noted a typo in paragraph 1 of p3 of the report – the word 'wondering' should be 'wandering.'

4) Council Reports:

a) SRC President: Liam Brady

Communications were sent out to all students on 13/11/2020 regarding coronavirus testing. Originally there was to be a pilot programme for testing students in halls of residence, however, the Scottish Government have now confirmed that testing will be available for all students who wish to travel home. More information on testing will be circulated to students either on 20/11/2020 or the following week. The testing locations will be Hunter Halls and Kelvin Gallery. L Brady encouraged anyone travelling home for the holidays to get tested beforehand.

The SRC Sabbatical Officers had a meeting with Jill Morrison, Clerk of Senate, and Helen Butcher regarding the No Detriment Policy and the potential for its reinstatement. As things stand, the NDP is not being reinstated, with the University's Good Cause system being used in its place instead. L Brady strongly encourages any students who feel their performance has been affected by Covid-19 (or other circumstances) to use this process. He also asked Council's Academic Representatives and College Convenors to make sure that their respective Schools provide communications to Students regarding Good Cause, in order to ensure students know the newly updated process for using this.

Two students have been evicted from halls of residence for behavioural reasons. The University have advised that that they believe they are being more lenient in dealing with student behaviour matters, as evidenced by the small number of evictions, however, it has been communicated to the SRC that there are other student issues beyond these two evictions. The SRC has been endeavouring to communicate to the University that, with the current pandemic, students should not be evicted from halls. L Brady said the SRC Advice Centre has been dealing with cases regarding student behaviour in University halls of residence and, as professionally trained advisers, they are best placed to advise and represent students in these matters.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if there have been more departures from halls this year than a usual year so far.

L Brady said he does not believe there have been significantly more departures. He said there have been student departures as the Coronavirus Scotland Act has allowed students to leave halls with 4 weeks' notice. L Brady added that the number of students who have withdrawn from their courses has been quite low, with more students utilising the act to move home. L Brady said the Advice Centre has been helping students to become aware of this and know their rights.

L O'Connor asked if the SRC is going to put out communications encouraging students to get tested for Coronavirus before they return home for the holiday period.

L Brady said there may have been information regarding testing in the Student Newsletter which went out today. He said that the University will be putting out communications to students regarding testing either on 20/11/2020 or early next week. He added that the SRC will be putting out communications regarding Glasgow's move to Tier 4 restrictions and can include information on testing within these communications.

H Baer asked if students could also be encouraged to download the Track and Trace app within the SRC's communications.

L Brady confirmed this could be included.

S Kholeif asked if testing is available for staff.

L Brady said as far as he knows testing will only be available to students, however, depending on the uptake (if it is not as high as expected, for example) it is possible testing will be made available to staff as well.

M Clarke asked if she is permitted to have her SRC credentials in her email signature, alongside her MRes signature details.

C Hashimoto-Cullen confirmed that Outlook allows for two signatures.

E Simmons asked if there is a time period for testing.

L Brady said the idea behind the timing would be to leave enough time so that, if a student did receive a positive test result, they will have enough time self-isolate before travelling home for Christmas. The deadline for testing will be the 04/12/2020.

D Henderson asked, in relation to the University's testing programme, if support for self-isolating students in privately rented flats will be made available.

L Brady confirmed that support will be available, but that the onus will be on the student to inform the University that they are self-isolating and require support. This is either done via the Helpdesk or via the coronavirus section on the University website. L Brady was

L Brady to follow up on what

unsure on the specific provisions available and will follow up on this but believes it will be food packages and medicine students require.

B Hay advised that there have been communication issues with private sector halls of residence, with the University not receiving all the information it needs to support students with food packages and other provisions in private sector halls of residence.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked, regarding Good Cause, if are there any guidance documents Council members can circulate to students to let them know how to use it.

L Brady said the SRC will look into guidance documents and that there will be an email sent out from Jill Morrison which will provide information on exams. She will be sending this to the SRC Sabbatical Officers before it goes out so when this happens, they can suggest information be included on Good Cause and perhaps links to a guidance document.

T Kleczkowski asked, with reference to the Chief Advisors Sub-Committee meeting L Brady attended on 03/11/2020, if he could expand on the measures for students who are not engaging with their studies. He asked if this was to be organised centrally by the University or more locally by the School/College.

L Brady said this would come through the University committees who are discussing the measures, but that Schools will also be responsible for addressing student engagement.

L McBlain asked if the two coronavirus testing locations could be confirmed again.

L Brady said the testing locations are Hunter Halls and Kelvin Gallery.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if study spaces will be lost to testing locations.

L Brady confirmed that for Hunter Halls and Kelvin Gallery, this would be the case, however, new study space will be available in the Fraser Building café space. Space will also hopefully be made

support will be available for self-isolating students.

available for students who need to come onto campus to sit an exam.

E Simmons asked, in light of the Library café moving to takeaway service only, where students are supposed to eat, as eating at their desks could pose a greater risk of coronavirus transmission than eating in the café.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said there is also the issue that when students go to eat, the Library reaches capacity and it is difficult for students to re-gain entry. As such, students are being faced with a choice between eating and studying.

L Brady said the SRC will follow this matter up to clarify where students can eat in the Library and will circulate the relevant information to Council members.

L McBlain said the new testing locations are quite far away for Vet students, especially considering these students are more at risk with being on campus around once a week for practical work.

L Brady said he understands this concern. He said Robert Partridge had mentioned making testing available in individual cases. He said that, although this is unconfirmed, he will follow up with R Partridge to see if Vet students would be able to have testing made available to them on the Garscube Campus

H Baer said that Vet students are currently waiting to hear back on whether the MVLS College is supportive of international PGR students going back home over the holiday period.

L Brady asked if the College is suggesting PGR students do not return home due to coronavirus.

H Baer said Vet students are unsure on this. She said that they have been told before that they are expected to remain in the country, so that they can work in the labs. She added, however, that the labs do close for a period of time. H Baer said there might be issues with students who return home and are required to self-isolate and, as a result, are not able to resume working in January. She added that this all may change due to the Research Institutes possibly closing,

L Brady to follow up on where students can eat in the Library.

L Brady to follow up with Robert Partridge on testing for Vet students on the Garscube campus.

with this either being confirmed on 19/11/2020 or 20/11/2020. H Baer said she will follow up to see if clarity can be provided on whether the College is happy for international students to return home but believes that the College may wish for students not to return home.

L Brady said he will try and seek clarity on this at the next Coronavirus daily briefing meeting.

b) VP Education: Grigoris Kokkinidis

STA nominations are now open. Council members are highly encouraged to both submit nominations and publicise the awards.

The Class Representative Forum will take place on 25/11/2020. The hope is that this event will generate feedback which can be used to inform semester 2 teaching and assessment. G Kokkinidis will present this feedback in the form of a verbal report to the University Learning and Teaching Committee the following day.

At the Academic Forum on 12/11/2020, there was a discussion on the Learning and Teaching Strategy. G Kokkinidis has relayed comments from the discussion to Moira Fischbacher-Smith, VP of Learning and Teaching. She will either discuss the feedback further with G Kokkinidis, who will then report back to Council, or she will write a response which G Kokkinidis will share with Council.

There are 2 Periodic Subject Reviews which require student members - Geographical and Earth Sciences and Urban Studies. Both take place in March. Any Council member who is interested in taking part should email G Kokkinidis with information on why they want to be involved and how it would benefit them. Similarly, for more information on these opportunities, Council members should contact G Kokkinidis.

G Kokkinidis has had recent discussions with Karen Lee regarding exam-sitting spaces. Some of the spaces which are currently bookable as individual study spaces will be removed from the bookable system and re-purposed as exam-sitting spaces. These spaces are planned to be available from the 30th November, with G Kokkinidis hoping to send out communications to students regarding this next week. If the demand outweighs supply, the SRC will look to provide further spaces, having already discussed

L Brady to seek further clarity on Vet students returning home.

potential localized School spaces with the Deans of Learning and Teaching. The SRC will also follow up with the Library to see if meeting rooms could be used as exam-sitting spaces.

Since the last Council meeting, G Kokkinidis has taken meetings regarding the Class Representative community and how this can be improved. This is an ongoing project which the SRC will continue to work on.

L Brady offered further information on PSRs to Council.

P Aasen asked G Kokkinidis to clarify if EU national students who start their programme of study after 01/01/2021 will require a visa to study.

G Kokkinidis said this only applies to students who start their programme after 31/12/2020 and only to those students who are not currently in the UK. He said, to his understanding, that this will not apply to students who are currently in the UK and start their programme on 01/01/2020.

M Clarke asked S Huzell if she would agree that PGR-focused Class Representative training would be a good idea for next year.

S Huzell said she agrees with this and has received feedback from PG student representatives suggesting that they require more specific support than what is currently offered during Class Representative training. S Huzell said this owes to the fact the PG Representative experience is very different to the UG Representative experience.

H Baer said she has received similar feedback. She also said that PG Vet students struggle to book onto Class Representative training sessions as these students often work until 5pm and the sessions only run before that time. She asked if post-5pm sessions could be arranged and said she would gather feedback on this for G Kokkinidis (circulating this to M Clarke and S Huzell also).

G Kokkinidis said he has been in contact with Helen Speirs about this matter and she understands this is an issue. He said PG-specific training has been offered in the past but did not enjoy a large uptake. H Speirs mentioned the possibility of having PGR-specific Zoom sessions in semester 2, so G Kokkinidis has contacted all PG convenors with a plan to meet and discuss proposed content

for these sessions. He added that, while there is no capacity for the training module to accommodate PGR-specific training this year, if the PGR Zoom sessions go ahead and are successful in semester 2, then the SRC could look into providing an additional section to the training specifically for PG Representatives next year.

L Brady asked for clarification that PG-specific Class Representative training was not something currently offered by the SRC.

B Hay confirmed this training used to be provided but is no longer available. He added that if there is an increased interest in PG-specific training, then a bespoke training session for this would be a revisited.

D Henderson asked if students undertaking exams under the 24-hour format would have access to the exam-sitting spaces.

G Kokkinidis confirmed that students already have access to individual bookable spaces to sit these exams. Before the beginning of the examination period, these spaces are bookable through the UofG Life App as bookable study spaces which students can book in advance of their exam. It is from the start of the exam diet that these bookable spaces will no longer be on the UofG Life App as study spaces but rather will be bookable through Timetabling via the Exam Support Page as exam sitting spaces. Currently these spaces are bookable in 3h slots as study spaces with the plan being that they would be bookable in 4h slots as exam sitting spaces. He said that bookings may be double-checked to ensure an exam is taking place but that he has flagged, in relation to 24-hour exams, that the time slot a student is booking for may not correspond to an exam date on that day.

c) VP Student Activities: Amy McKenzie Smith

Refreshers' Week is currently being organised for January 2021.

The SRC's Movember campaign has been very successful and A McKenzie Smith would like to thank all those taking part in the fundraising. The SRC has raised over £2.2k, with the University raising, in total, over £31k so far. This surpasses the previous year's total of £21k.

A new working group is being formed within the University which will address issues relating to the welfare of home students.

Research into the welfare of home students has not been undertaken for some time so this WG will address this.

A McKenzie Smith emailed all School Representatives after the last Council meeting regarding student engagement and social activities. Any Council members who would like her assistance in contacting their respective Schools regarding these matters are encouraged to contact her directly.

L McBlain asked if the University has considered new temporary study spaces similar to those provided by the University of Edinburgh.

S Kholeif said it would be worth contacting the GUU and/or QMU to see if their spaces could be used for exams, given that they are no longer required as testing centres.

L Brady said the SRC will follow up with the unions about this.

D Henderson asked, with reference to the Client Group Meeting 11/11/2020 in A McKenzie Smith's report, for clarity on whether the JMSLH will open at 70-80% capacity, or 30% as is stated in L Brady's report.

A McKenzie said she had been told the space would be able to open at 70-80% capacity in the project group, as the majority of the seating in the building is 2 metres apart already.

L Brady said he had been told it would be 30% in order to match the current capacity of the University Library.

A McKenzie Smith said she would follow up on this matter to gain clarity.

E Simmons asked if A McKenzie Smith could expand on her meeting on 09/11/2020 with L Brady, Robert Garnish and Callum Williamson regarding the situation with Commercial Services and halls of residence, and the Tenants Union stunt.

A McKenzie said this meeting saw R Garnish address the letter containing a list of accommodation-related demands which Student Tenants Union had posted on the University Principal's door, with a view to making sure each demand on the list was being met. She said R Garnish and C Williamson were checking in with the SRC to

L Brady to follow up with Unions on exam spaces.

A McKenzie Smith to obtain clarity on opening capacity of JMSLH

confirm with the SRC that a number of the demands were already being met.

L Brady added that the SRC will be releasing communications on advice for students who wish to leave their halls of residence early. These communications will advocate that students experiencing housing issues should contact the SRC Advice Centre for assistance.

E Simmons said the feedback she has received from students in halls is that they are still not receiving the welfare support they need, and that the situation in halls has not improved significantly. She added that she has received feedback that a number of students had not received a welfare check. E Simmons asked if it would possible to receive clarity on what demands from the Student Tenants Union's list the University has already met.

B Hay said that it is not just a case of what demands the University has met. He was not filled with confidence with regard to the Students Tenant Union filling any advisory or representative function. The most glaring error in their list of "demands" demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of current housing legislation and there are serious dangers when unqualified individuals seek to place themselves in advisory positions in pursuit of other objectives. The most important person should be the student seeking advice, not some campaign objectives. B Hay added that the SRC Advice Centre is insured, staffed by qualified professionals and is best placed to advise students on accommodation issues.

L Brady added that one of the concerns regarding the list was a demand that students be allowed to leave their accommodation contracts. As students can already do this with a week's notice, the concern was that students who read this demand might assume that they were not allowed to do this when they in fact are. L Brady said he would consult his notes and follow up with E Simmons on any other points from the meeting. He also thanked her for her feedback regarding welfare support for students in halls and said the SRC would raise this again.

d) VP Student Support: Ella McCabe

The upcoming De-stress campaign is currently in planning stages and was discussed at the first Welfare Forum of the year on

L Brady to raise issue of welfare support for students in halls at next meeting with involved parties.

05/11/2020. All 4 student bodies will be organising activities, with the plan being for De-stress activities to be put on from the end of the teaching period. This will also be an opportunity not only for Council members to offer de-stress and study tips for the exam period, but to also allow students to get to know their SRC Council representatives better. This will take the form of videos from Council members and E McCabe will circulate an outline of what is required in the video in due course.

E McCabe said the Understanding Racism, Transforming University Cultures report has now gone through both the Race Equality Group and the Equality and Diversity Strategy Committee. This will go to the Senior Management Group for approval before being internally published in December. The EDSC are keen for this transparency around this report and for it to be published widely and openly. More details on where this will be reported will follow after the report has been considered by the SMG in December.

At the meeting of the EDSC on 16/11/2020 it was agreed that the University will adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. This is the basic definition and does not include the working examples that the IHRA have included.

20/11/2020 is Transgender Day of Remembrance. E McCabe encouraged all members of Council to attend and take part in the planned activities for this. All the event details are on Native.

E McCabe asked all Council members to still submit a Council report, even if they know they will not be able to attend a Council meeting.

D Henderson asked why the working examples were excluded from the University's adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism.

E McCabe said the exclusion of the working examples was a contentious issue and was debated by many people. A trade union representative had issues with the definition being used at all, and there was disagreement amongst some on specific working examples. It was therefore agreed that, as the working examples were a point of dispute, only the definition would be adopted.

L Brady said that he believes that the Labour Party may have previously created their own working examples and that this was met with controversy. He added that the University were keen to

take the stance they have, as this is the same stance that has been taken by the Scottish Government.

D Henderson thanked E McCabe and L Brady for explaining this and said he was pleased that the University has adopted the definition.

P Aasen said it would be helpful to try and communicate that there will be support for students who will stay over the holiday period (particularly those in halls), as they may be worried about this period or about potential loneliness. He said this was important to convey as many students may already be stressed about the upcoming exam diet.

E McCabe said she agrees. She said that Accommodation Services have circulated a survey to determine how many students intend to stay in halls of residence over the holiday period. She said that at the group meetings where Christmas student activities are being discussed they have been trying to keep the focus on what support can be provided to students during this period. E McCabe confirmed that the activities/support that will be available are currently being planned (and will potentially include utilising the Unibuddy platform as well as student ambassadors) and that communications on this will be released in due course.

L Brady said that he believes 70% of students living in halls have completed the survey and it appears that upwards of 90% of students are planning on going home for the holidays.

S Kholeif said the gym intends to be open over the break if Glasgow manages to drop down back to Tier 3 restrictions. This is to provide an outlet for students to exercise.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked S Kholeif if GUSA will organise exercise and welfare activities as they did in Freshers' Week for those still in Glasgow.

S Kholeif said they are working towards providing several activities. Firstly, they are planning a walking challenge in halls, due to launch soon. Secondly, GUSA's Active Lifestyles Team instructors are looking to do outdoor classes at halls of residence. These classes are planned to begin next week or the following week. Thirdly, for any GUSA buddies who are around over the break, training is being provided to them over the next couple of weeks and they could be available to take guidelines-dependent activities. S Kholeif added

that the UofG app is also available for home workouts and that GUSA would encourage Council members to signpost students to this.

E McCabe said that there has also been discussion regarding highlighting particular volunteering opportunities available over the Christmas break through GU Volunteering in addition to the activities/support being organised.

L O'Connor asked if the Understanding Racism, Transforming University Cultures report being published internally will mean that students can read the report, or if the report will only be accessible to staff and the SMG.

E McCabe said she believes students will have access to the report.

L Brady said that while it is an internal review, he believes the report will be published on the University's website. He is unsure as to whether the report will be published more widely beyond that.

K Craig said she had received feedback from Class Representatives asking (as student mental health is a primary concern of theirs) if it would be possible for students to have more localised access to mental health resources, possibly via their 'Services' section on MyGlasgow or via clear links akin to classes on Moodle.

E McCabe said she will contact Information Services to see if it is possible for this information to be added to students' 'Services' sections on MyGlasgow and will report back.

J Small said the SRC has also raised the idea of adding support links and information to the UofG Life App.

e) Sharlotte Jenell Green – Age Equality Officer

S Jenell Green said most of her recent work has been in relation to the Mature Students Association and the efforts to have access to the MSA building on Oakfield Avenue regained for mature students. This matter was being discussed further in a meeting between Robert Partridge and Estates, with S Jenell Green awaiting an update on this and hoping that the outcome will be that the MSA will once again have access to the building.

E McCabe
to follow
up with
Informatio
n Services

The first Mature Student Mixer took place this month. S Jenell Green said that future sessions could benefit from being publicised earlier and on a wider basis. She asked the Council College Convenors to contact her if they were amenable to disseminating information regarding these events amongst Class Representatives, adding that an upcoming December Christmas party event for mature students is currently being planned.

and report back.

L Brady encouraged College Convenors and academic representatives to share this information.

D Henderson said that College Convenors do not have access to a list of every Class Representative in their College and that only School Representatives have this for their individual Schools. He said that, as such, School Representatives may be better placed to disseminate this information.

f) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo

At the College of Arts Graduate School Board meeting on 11/11/2020, it was stated that funded PhD extensions for final year students had now been covered and that applications for funded extensions for penultimate year students would be opened up next. The Dean of Learning and Teaching also stated that there is work being done to address GTA issues, such as making time spent preparing and marking fairer for GTA students. This process is taking some time, however, as they have to work with the Schools and HR in order to make changes to the current system. K Leomo hopes to have an update on this for the next Council meeting.

K Leomo attended the College Advisory Group along with some of Council's School Representatives. This was a good opportunity to offer input.

K Leomo would like to foster PG and UG community-building and is planning on working with the Graduate School to set up a system for PG students to give short presentations about their research, work and non-study work to UG students, with the view that these talks will inform UG students in regard to further study or possible career paths.

With regards to further community-building activities, K Leomo is looking to set up a network specifically for Research Masters

students, as these students fall outwith the cohorts of PhD students (who have access to the PhD society) and PGT students.

K Leomo said each School within the College of Arts is supposed to be setting up their own GTA peer observation network. K Leomo has been in touch with a few Schools regarding this and should have an update in time for the next Council meeting.

A PhD Peer-Mentoring Programme has recently been set up. The deadline for applying to this is 23/11/2020. The idea is that this programme will bring together new PhD students with more experienced PhD students in a mentee/mentor relationship – a programme which K Leomo believes the SRC should support.

L Brady said that in discussions around the University's Enhancement Theme, which this year is 'Resilient Learning Communities', the idea of peer-assisted learning was mentioned in relation to PGR students. L Brady believes the PhD Peer-Mentoring Programme will work well in this regard.

g) PG MVLS Convenor: Hannah Baer

In light of a recent incident on the Garscube campus, there is currently considerable anxiety amongst students regarding travelling to and from the campus. This stems from the fact that the last bus from Garscube leaves at 6pm, so students are worried about getting home safely, especially at night when it is dark. H Baer said some Class Representatives within MVLS have begun self-defence classes online. H Baer added that representatives are also trying to secure a better CCTV system to aid student safety and that they are starting a buddying system for students walking home which will be organised through a Teams page. H Baer said she will pass these details to L McBlain, and that she hopes to be able to implement similar measures on the Gilmorehill campus once the Garscube measures have been implemented.

H Baer said there has been some controversy stemming from the fact that UKRI has stated they will not be offering funded extensions to PhD students. This decision took 6 months to make which is frustrating for students as, had they known earlier, they could have used this time to mitigate the impact on their financial situations. Efforts are being made to understand what impact this could have on UKRI students, and whether funding may be available from the MVLS College. H Baer added that there may be a blanket approach

at the beginning of next year for non-UKRI students to find out their circumstances regarding extensions.

L Brady believes, in light of the backlash against UKRI's decision, that there has been a U-turn of sorts and that they have now contacted universities stating that they can offer funding. L Brady added that he believes the funding may be available in specific cases, such as for students who finish their studies next year, but that there will also be funding available to all students which will be based on personal circumstances.

T Kleczkowski asked if there was any chance of reviving the Routebuddy system which was already in place. This was a Facebook group started last year, set up for the purposes of allowing students to buddy up to walk home at night. The group grew quite a lot but was not used very often.

L Brady said he had heard feedback on this suggesting the issue with this group was that there was no control over who could join.

T Kleczkowski agreed there were issues with the group which prevented it from working.

L Brady said it would be beneficial to investigate what support can be made available in this regard.

H Baer said she had recently been involved in a discussion regarding trying to find out how much money institutes spend on taxis for shuttling students between the Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, with the idea being to see if this money could be more effectively spent on a minibus, perhaps supplied by GUSA, which could provide a shuttling service.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said GUSA minibuses have a very low capacity and may struggle with evening bookings.

B Hay said that it is the cost of running the minibus and the legislation becoming more restrictive in relation to maximum capacities that are the issue.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked, with regards to self-defence, if there has been interaction with the sports team on campus and whether they would be able to run anything in this regard.

S Kholeif said that one of GUSA's instructors, is an MMA fighter who has run self-defence classes for the GU Women's Volleyball Club in the past. He added that GUSA's Club Sport Convenor and her mother have been running self-defence classes for a long time. S Kholeif asked to be contacted regarding this and said he would then contact the parties mentioned to see if they would be able to offer self-defence classes for students, possibly in an online Covid-compliant format.

h) PG Science and Engineering Convenor: Hao Xu – n/a

i) PG Research Convenor: Catherine Reid

C Reid said a student approached her in a distressed state as they had been threatened with debt collection due to a mix-up with their funding and the University. C Reid directed them to the SRC Advice Centre who were unfortunately unable to help them. C Reid feels that there needs to be clearer communication to students on who they should approach to resolve these issues, as she found it difficult to discern who or what department this would be.

L Brady said he believes there is information on the SRC website regarding financial support in addition to the information on the University's website. He added that there have been concerns raised by PGR and UG students regarding the tone of the letters being sent out by the University in relation to unpaid fees, and that this matter will be addressed at the Student Experience Committee.

B Hay said H Speirs from the SRC Advice Centre raised this specific issue at the Student Experience Committee yesterday. He added that the SRC Advice Centre are well aware of these issues and is unsure as to whether they were unable to help in this instance, positing that they may have in fact advised the student that the situation would be resolved in time but the student continued to feel distress at the situation despite this advice.

C Reid said this was possibly what may have happened. She added that the distress for students in these situations can be worsened by the difficulties posed by dealing with several different funding bodies or dealing with a funding body which operates overseas.

L Brady said R Partridge was at the SEC as well and he highlighted that in several cases the fault in these situations lay with the funding body rather than the students themselves. L Brady mentioned that the tone of the finance emails to students will also be addressed and that students had been receiving an email once a week about these matters. He said that students were unfortunately unable to do much in these situations to resolve matters quickly but overall the University could have provided a better response regarding these matters.

H Baer said situations like these have happened frequently in the MVLS College this year. She said that if students approach their administrators, then the administrators can contact the Registration team on their behalf to stop the finance -related letters being sent to them. She added that the credit scores of some students were even damaged due to ignoring these letters (*clarification required*)

C Reid thanked H Baer for this solution and said she would pass this information on. She asked if there was a way for this information to be better publicised so that students can be in a position where they know how to resolve these situations themselves. She said this information would be particularly important to PhD students with smaller networks who may also experience difficulties imposed by a language barrier.

L Brady said the SRC will look at putting out communications regarding this and will also look to update the SRC website with relevant information here.

L Brady said, with reference to the mention in C Reid's report of setting up a Teams group for PG Representatives to share good practice, that the SRC has 5 student networks currently set up on Facebook, one of which is for PG students. L Brady suggested C Reid could have some oversight on the PG network to see if there are ways this can be improved. He added that he believes setting up a Teams is also a good idea but would be concerned about the possible duplication of work here.

C Reid said that in recent discussions Teams seemed to be the preferred platform, however a consensus has not been reached. She said she will look into the PG network on Facebook further.

j) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Lindquist

E Lindquist raised the issue of student concern over lack of physical teaching spaces for the Arts at her College Learning and Teaching Committee meeting. The staff at the meeting assured her that the University has not given them the impression that the Arts will be de-prioritised in any way with regards to physical teaching spaces. Staff are not concerned here and, as such, neither should students be.

E Lindquist and the Arts Representatives took part in a meeting with the College Advisory Group on 18/11/2020. The Arts Representatives did a great job of providing feedback and pitching ideas for community-building and communication within the College.

k) UG MVLS Convenor: Lewis O'Connor

L O'Connor met with Chris Finlay, Chief of Advisor for the School of Life Sciences. Having been in the role for 6 months, L O'Connor believes C Finlay has effectively addressed several issues and has been receptive to answering questions which L O'Connor has brought to him. L O'Connor hopes to arrange meetings with the Chief Advisers of the other Schools within MVLS so as to maintain an even consistency of communication across the College.

A society which L O'Connor set up called Healthcare Students Against Racism has been contacted by Show Racism the Red Card. The society are trialing a pilot anti-racism workshop run by the organisation. SRTRC are keen to explore the idea of partnering with the University and possibly the SRC to deliver anti-racism workshops. L O'Connor said that the society will be testing the content of the workshop on a trial basis, and wondered if, given the BLM movement and the workshops delivered by the SRC (Mind Your Mate and Let's Talk About Sexual Violence), there was scope for the SRC to roll out bystander training/anti-racism workshops.

L Brady said the SRC is currently looking into expanding its delivery of workshops under the brand 'Let's Talk', taken from the Let's Talk about Sexual Violence workshops. He said this could include Let's Talk about Mental Health sessions, and that E McCabe is working on another 'Let's Talk' programme focusing on drug and alcohol

awareness. L Brady said anti-racism training could be included as a Let's Talk programme.

E McCabe said she could see anti-racism training being part of the expansion of the 'Let's Talk' concept, particularly with the upcoming publication of the Understanding Racism, Transforming University Cultures report. She asked if SRTRC use a 'train the trainer' structure, or if they simply deliver the training to workshop attendees.

L O'Connor said they can deliver both types of training. He said that his society will trial the training and feedback on the content.

E McCabe said she would be happy to discuss the idea further with L O'Connor and asked if he could pass on the details of SRTRC.

L Brady said he found it surprising and distressing to learn from the URTUC report that the places students experienced racism the most were the student unions. With the findings of the report in mind, L Brady believes it is important that there are student-led initiatives to tackle racism. R Campbell and N Ranpuria were not present at the meeting to comment on this but L Brady invites them to at the next Council meeting.

G Kokkinidis asked if the School of Medicine Library's opening hours would be extended to 24hrs a day.

L O'Connor said Karen Lee had assured him the opening hours would be extended, but that he did not push for 24hr access and is still awaiting final clarity on what the extension will be.

G Kokkinidis asked L O'Connor to elaborate on the aim behind his upcoming discussion with David Duncan regarding the placement expenses scheme.

L O'Connor said he originally approached D Duncan last year at the Student Experience Away Day to ask about the possibility of having an expenses scheme for students on clinical placements. D Duncan said the idea was financially viable and recommended that L O'Connor and the MVLS College write up a request for this to be considered at Senate/Court. L Brady said an expenses scheme is necessary, particularly for 3rd to 5th clinical year students who are required to undertake placements in locations such as Ayr, Dumfries and Wishaw, as the travel costs of getting to these locations mount

up for students, due in part to railcards/season tickets being unsuitable for the nature of travel for placements. In the past, the Medical School have encouraged students to apply to the Discretionary Fund, however L O'Connor believes students should not be encouraged to use this fund for these purposes, and that there should be an expenses scheme alleviating the financial burden for students here.

G Kokkinidis asked if the scheme would be specific to the Medical School or if it would apply to all Schools within MVLS. He said he is aware that L McBlain is working to achieve something similar in the Vet School.

L O'Connor said he was primarily looking at the Medical School here and was planning on approaching each School separately with regards to implementing a scheme. He said he still needs to follow up with L McBlain regarding vet expenses for their EMS studies. L O'Connor said he is happy to collaborate on this to achieve a placement expenses scheme which works across the professional degrees offered by the University.

L McBlain said he is keen to collaborate with L O'Connor here, stating that Vet students are required to undertake a considerable amount of EMS (extra-mural studies) which can involve working across the country.

L Brady said that Education students within the CoSS undertake placements too so it would be good to expand a scheme like this beyond the MVLS College. He asked that G Kokkinidis be given oversight of this matter and that G Kokkinidis possibly attend the meeting with David Duncan as well. L Brady believes this is a good idea for helping to alleviate the financial burden placed on students from travelling to placements.

L O'Connor said he agrees and said at the very least he would like to see a scheme of this type rolled out to students from low-income backgrounds. He said if this was achieved then the scheme could possibly be built up in future years to accommodate all students.

l) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jenny Newton

J Newton said that her contributions are being taken onboard at meetings within her College. She said that her presentation at the

remote teaching workshop was well-received and expressed her thanks to the School Representatives who sent her feedback for use in her presentation.

L Brady said that the SRC is working to have the University circulate communications on what Brexit means for EU students. The hope is to have these communications released soon.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said that the only communication to date that students have received regarding what Brexit means for EU students is a message essentially telling them not to worry if they are charged lots of money because this is temporary and fees are not changing. C Hashimoto-Cullen said she is not entirely sure what is happening regarding settled status for EU students but she is aware that the end of the year is approaching and that communications on this have been sparse.

L Brady said the situation with Covid-19 is responsible for disruption to communications but acknowledged that the timeframe for issuing communications on Brexit is getting tighter.

P Aasen said the lack of communication is in part due to Covid-19, however, it is also due to the fact that EU students' circumstances should not change significantly as long as they have applied for settled or pre-settled status – something that has been communicated to students over the previous 2 years or so. He added that while Brexit does pose uncertainty, not much should change for EU students.

L Brady said it is not ideal that students should receive emails which give the impression that they owe a lot of money, although it is positive that this has at least been communicated to students by the University.

G Kokkinidis said, with regards to the CoSE LTC meeting J Newton attended on 03/11/2020, that he understands the frustration that a number of School representatives feel in relation to students being disadvantaged by exam formats. He would like to discuss potential improvements to exam formats with J Newton and the other CoSE School Representatives, with the view to improving these for students in time for the exam diet which will follow the upcoming diet.

A Whelan said she believes it is unfair that Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics students are only given a half-hour cushion to upload their work, as this does not take into account the fact that students, in most cases, are not sitting exams in exam conditions and have to deal with issues such as poor Wi-Fi or being disturbed by other people. A Whelan believes this is unfair considering other students are given 24 hours to sit their exams.

J Newton said she brought up this issue at the Remote Teaching Workshop. She believes the College assume that students only require this time to upload their work, however, J Newton has had experience of Moodle crashing her laptop during an exam due to the volume of students accessing it. As such the cushion period is not just time required for uploading, it must give enough time to accommodate potential issues like this.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she believes that in Mathematics there is concern that, as some exams are quite short (1 and a half hours), the cushion period would give students too much extra time for these exams. She added that switching to a 24hr exam format would involve retraining Mathematics students for a different way of sitting exams which these students are currently not accustomed to, as current Mathematics exam formats are quite specific. C Hashimoto-Cullen said she is going to follow up on this matter with her School tomorrow.

m) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson

D Henderson clarified that the Defining Student Services Workshop mentioned in his report did not take place due to technical difficulties. The meeting is going to be rescheduled.

D Henderson referenced the Social Sciences Exam Arrangements meeting he attended on 11/11/2020 and invited Council members to feedback on any exam-related communications they have received, so that this can be compiled and D Henderson can then feedback to the College with a view to improving exam communications for the Spring diet.

L Brady said this was a good point and asked D Henderson to pass on any feedback received from Council members so that this can inform the pre-exams email being sent out by Jill Morrison next week.

n) Chemistry School Rep: Katie Fish

K Fish has been looking into trying to gain access for students to lecture recordings from the years below them, however, her department have said this would be too difficult to achieve. K Fish is therefore looking into the practicalities surrounding this.

G Kokkinidis said he followed up with David Anderson on the matter of making lecture recordings available to other students.

Unfortunately, there is not an easy solution. The easiest way would be for students to receive access to the Moodle pages for other levels, however, there are GDPR issues as the Lecture Recording Policy stipulates that the recordings for a course are only available to students sitting that particular course. Another potential solution would be to continue to allow students access to their previous year Moodle pages, even after they have progressed, so G Kokkinidis recommends that K Fish check within her School to see if this is a possibility.

K Fish asked if this solution would allow current 3rd year students access to 2nd year content this year, or would it only allow students to keep lecture recordings from previous years as they progress.

G Kokkinidis believes that the content of the Moodle page would change year-on-year, so if a student was to stay in last year's course Moodle the content would change to reflect this year's content. As such, leaving the student on that page would not solve the issue at hand.

J Newton said she is enrolled on the Physics Level 3 Moodle this year even though she is in 4th year, and that there are pre-recorded lectures on the Level 3 Moodle.

L Brady said being added to other Moodle pages may be something to follow up on.

E Simmons said that she was able to be re-added to an old Moodle portal on request.

T Kleczkowski said the School of Engineering will enroll students on Moodle pages on request.

K Leomo said there should be a new Moodle for each course every year, so in theory students should be able to access different Moodle pages.

G Kokkinidis referenced the section in K Fish's report stating that teachers had mentioned they thought students were proving more resilient than staff this semester. He asked Council members if they would agree with this statement.

K Fish clarified that she does not agree with this statement and that it was just an observation and the complaints of staff.

G Kokkinidis clarified that he was not implying that this was K Fish's opinion, but rather asking if any Council members shared the staff point of view.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she strongly disagrees with this statement, that online learning is not good and that rather than it being a case of student resilience, staff are just very unaware of how students are feeling as it is difficult to access them, noting that it can take 2 emails to get in contact with your adviser.

D Henderson appreciates the amount of effort that staff have put into the organisation and delivery of online courses but feels there comes a point when it is difficult for students to stare at a screen all day, every day and conduct all their course activity online. He said that student resilience is perhaps not as strong as staff perceive it to be.

C Hashimoto-Cullen she acknowledges that staff are also struggling but thinks it is a problem if staff and students are not aware of each other's struggles.

S Wilson said there is generally an increase in coursework for students within his School in November. He said that for feedback he is going to consult students within his School towards the end of Semester 1 to see how they are coping in relation to staff, adding that he does not expect to receive positive feedback.

L Brady referenced the section of K Fish's report about students looking for an indication from staff on how far they should be through their classes and said that this is an issue which J Newton may wish to raise at the College LTC.

o) Critical Studies School Rep: Bethany Woodhead

M Clarke referenced the mention of changes to word count policy in B Woodhead's report and said that in meetings with Class Representatives she was informed that some courses have abolished the 10% rule without communicating this change to students, with students then being penalised as a result. M Clarke asked G Kokkinidis why this change has been brought in and why it has not been communicated properly to students.

G Kokkinidis said he has reached out for more information on what guidance students have received on word counts. He said that he is aware that staff have been given guidance on word counts for students sitting open-book exams but is awaiting more information regarding word counts and exams.

D Henderson asked if G Kokkinidis could provide any more information on changes to word count policy for coursework essays, rather than exam-based essays.

G Kokkinidis said he currently does not have any information on this but that he will follow the matter up.

p) Education School Rep: Jon Hosie

J Hosie said that at a School of Education LTC meeting, staff emphasised that they were pleased with student resilience. However, he said that staff are still awaiting student feedback and that a lot of students have been receiving negative marks which may come as a shock to staff. J Hosie has gathered that, with the move to online teaching, some students have been having issues contacting their advisers.

q) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Sam Malis

Since submitting his Council report, S Malis has attended SLTC and SEC meetings. He said that within his School, a topic of discussion has focused on live lectures vs. pre-recorded lectures. Feedback suggests that 1st and 2nd year students prefer live classes, while 3rd and 4th year students prefer the pre-recorded lectures.

S Malis said that within SSLC there was discussion on what elements of online teaching from semester 1 should be carried on to semester 2, and what elements should be changed. He said that there was some confusion when the exam timetable was released as it had not

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been adequately communicated to students that their exams were double-time, however, this matter has now been resolved. S Malis added that the confusion over exam times led into a discussion around course guides and handbooks, and how confusion can arise from the fact that some course modules do not have handbooks as they are not required to. As such, plans are being made for a course handbook template which would dispel confusion over exam and assignment-related issues. S Malis will follow up with his Class Representatives on this and hopefully have something together in time for the next SLTC meeting.

r) Humanities School Rep: Lauren Campbell

G Kokkinidis asked for clarification on whether L Campbell's query about "face-to-face" exams for Latin 4 meant on-campus exams. He is under the impression that no exams will take place on campus this year. G Kokkinidis said he will follow up with L Campbell on this matter.

s) Law School Rep: Heather McSwan

Several students have approached H McSwan regarding having an information session for the diploma course which follows the Law LLB. This is a session which is normally delivered so H McSwan has contacted the director of the diploma about this and is awaiting a reply.

There was discussion at a meeting last week with Yvonne Harkness regarding communications for the format of Law exams. H McSwan said that word count restrictions were quite challenging during the last exam diet and that student fed back to the School regarding this and are waiting to find out if this is going to be changed at any point.

H McSwan has a drop-in meeting with Class Representatives scheduled for next week.

t) Life Sciences School Rep: Smilla Huzell

S Huzell is working with L O'Connor to improve the Advisor system in the School of Life Sciences.

S Huzell is planning a short meeting with her Class Representatives to take place towards the end of the semester, in order to gather

feedback from all years on semester 1. She is currently looking at dates which will accommodate the Representatives.

u) Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Helen Manson

H Manson said that within her School there has been positive feedback stemming from online learning for smaller classes of around 10 or less.

G Kokkinidis asked if there was any difference in teaching between smaller and larger online classes and if variation in teaching may be responsible for the greater success of smaller online classes.

H Manson said from the feedback she has gathered and the meetings she has attended, the success seems linked to the breakout rooms function. She said that with larger classes, there is a longer waiting period before a teacher arrives in a breakout room. She added that larger breakout rooms can give rise to unbalanced dynamics of some students speaking a lot whilst others are quite quiet and with this dynamic it can be more difficult for students to engage with the class and feel that they are receiving enough feedback.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said breakout rooms quality varies depending on the group's make up .

S Huzell said some people are just uncomfortable with Zoom so are less likely to get involved.

v) Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Holly Hourston – n/a

w) Psychology School Rep: Leonie Schorrlepp

From the SSLC meetings L Schorrlepp has attended, it is apparent that Microsoft Teams is being very well received across the different year groups. She is unsure as to how the platform is being utilised in other Schools but said that Psychology students are enjoying using it. She added that she is pleased to report that those within her School are generally quite happy at present.

L Schorrlepp said that the format of SSLC meetings for some years has changed and that, with the meetings being online, this has led to reduced input from students which is concerning. She asked if any other Council members have had a similar experience.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she contacted one of her lecturers regarding SRC representation at meetings and this resolved the issue.

L McBlain said he had his first SSLC meeting on Monday and staff asked if any students wished to chair the next meeting.

L Schorrlepp said this was good to know as she believes students would be given a stronger voice if they were able to lead the meetings.

L Brady agreed that student chairs or co-chairs would be beneficial. He said that he is aware that the format of SSLC meetings varies across the University, with some School meetings being akin to a lecture for Class Representatives, rather than a collaborative meeting.

G Kokkinidis referenced the 03/11/2020 LTC meeting in L Schorrlepp's report and her mention of "scepticism about work on getting all grades into one place..." G Kokkinidis asked if this relates to the Assessment and Feedback Transformation Project's work on a portal where all of a student's grades are in one place.

L Schorrlepp said it does, adding that staff are quite defensive over the current system of having grades in multiple locations.

G Kokkinidis asked what the reasoning behind their scepticism is.

L Schorrlepp will follow up with the staff for more information here.

G Kokkinidis said, with regards to students having issues accessing resources from China, that he will follow up on this matter to see if any resolution can be provided here.

L Brady praised L Schorrlepp's Instagram takeover for the School of Psychology, which took place on 12/11/2020.

x) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz

At M Franz's Class Representative meeting on Tuesday, students expressed a desire to have Moodle pages presented in a more uniform manner. M Franz asked Council if there was a way to lobby for this as staff currently seem reluctant to enact this change.

M Franz said there is also concern within her School from students and lecturers alike regarding exams, as the School has not yet issued a significant amount of detail on arrangements, leading to student speculation that each lecturer may set their own specific exam arrangements – an eventuality that is concerning to M Franz as she believes this would be very unfair for students. M Franz said she will raise this issue at her College’s LTC meeting next week.

G Kokkinidis said Moodle templates were discussed several months ago before a decision was made to not pursue this idea. This decision was based on the fact that, while courses with dysfunctional Moodle pages would benefit from a template being imposed, in other cases a template would limit the creative potential of course Moodle pages.

M Franz said an option would be to simply ensure the Moodle template is of a high quality. She said that the current Moodle pages for 1st years in her School are the main source of information for these students and that they are very confusing. M Franz said the feedback she has received suggests thought that the same applies to exams for 1st year students as well; these students do not know what to expect from exams, so this lack of experience should be taken into consideration accordingly.

S Malis said he has met with resistance from staff when mentioning uniform Moodle pages.

L McBlain said the Vet School has utilised Moodle very effectively this year, making use of checklists and Moodle Books among other functions.

C Hashimoto-Cullen agreed that uniform Moodle pages would be beneficial, but said that in her experience some lecturers have used all the functionalities available and made very effective use of the technology – something they would not have done if Moodle pages worked to a uniform template.

L McBlain asked if staff are taught how to use Moodle and utilise its benefits effectively.

L Brady said there is a document which provides guidance on this.

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K Leomo said Moodle is user-unfriendly from the teaching side of things but can actually be used effectively if time and effort are taken to set it up properly.

L Brady said last year a review board looked at whether Moodle should be replaced by another platform, however, it was decided that Moodle should be kept as it was deemed the most effective platform for learning and teaching.

D Henderson reasoned that M Franz's reduced number of Class Representatives may be due to PG students not beginning their courses until January 2021.

M Franz said she now has a more complete list of her Class Representatives.

L Brady said this list may increase in number of Representatives soon, as approximately 2.5k students will begin their studies in January 2021, with the majority of these students undertaking courses in the School of Social and Political Sciences.

D Henderson said, with regards to M Franz's mention of exams, that unfortunately he was required to state in two classes today that exam communications were forthcoming.

y) Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Luke McBlain

The University's exam protocol has not been deemed relevant to the Vet School due to the School's governing bodies. As such, students are anxious with regards to what their exam protocol will be and will not find this out until May, however, they will still be required to undertake face-to-face examinations to meet the requirements of the accrediting bodies.

L McBlain said EMS is frequently being cancelled but that this matter is going to be reviewed.

At the SSLC meeting, L McBlain spoke to the SMG regarding the recent assault on the Garscube campus. They apologised unreservedly for not sending out communications to Vet students regarding this and agreed to liaise with L McBlain on improvements students would like made for the future in relation to the safety and security culture on campus. They also sent out an email immediately after the meeting which included links to the SafeZone Zoom and

the Security Culture Zoom, however, attendance may have suffered due to the short notice of these invitations. L McBlain was pleased that an apology was issued over the absence of communications to students regarding the assault.

L McBlain will follow up with L O'Connor regarding the placement expenses scheme proposal.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she does not remember receiving any communications regarding the assault on the Garscube campus and asked if it is expected that all students would normally receive such communications.

S Huzell said the School of Life Sciences received a statement on the assault 2-3 days after it took place.

L McBlain said he believed communications of this nature would be University-wide as they pertain to student safety, however, only students in the Medical School and School of Life Sciences received communications on this.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she believes communications of this nature have been University-wide in the past.

L Brady said that the communications only went out to MVLS as it was a Garscube-related issue, however, ironically the information was not sent to the Garscube-based Vet students. He added that the communications were not University-wide as the incident was separate from the main campus, and, as such, the communications that did go out were designed to safeguard those on the Garscube campus.

S Huzell said GUSA also released communications on the assault - something which seems to contradict the idea of only informing Garscube-based students.

L Brady said the message was designed to reach any student who was on the Garscube campus and that this would include students making use of the sports facilities there, which explains why GUSA put out communications regarding the assault. He said the SRC did raise the nature of the communications with the University Communications team but were told that they did not want to put out University-wide communications as the alarm this might cause may jeopardise an investigation that was being carried out into the

assault. L Brady said he understands that this situation was not desirable but recognises that the University need to factor in these considerations when making decisions regarding communications.

z) Charities, Clubs & Societies Officer: Becky Laird

A McKenzie Smith said a UofG/RAG Depop page has been set up so if any members of Council have any clothes they no longer wear or wish to clear out, please contact B Laird or A McKenzie Smith who will add these to the account. A McKenzie also encouraged Council members to share and promote the page.

aa) Environmental Officer: Alvaro Perez Guardiola

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked what the University's divestment policy would be and whether it would consider divestment policies which mirror those of other large national bodies, citing as an example the decision that was made earlier this year to divest from fossil fuels for UK pensions.

E Simmons said the University have pledged to divest from fossil fuels already but the Green New Deal is asking for full divestment sooner than is currently planned as there are several other Universities and institutions who have divested fully on a shorter timeframe.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said in terms of divestment over a period of time this cannot be achieved overnight due to liquidity, but the process should take significantly less time than 10 years.

E Simmons said she agrees, adding that a halfway assessment was carried out in which divestment had only reached 25%.

K Craig asked, with regards to the demands of the Green New Deal, if there is a date set in relation to Demand #15.

E Simmons said there was no date set for this as the University were deciding this date based on their Sustainability Strategy. She added that the influence of the Green New Deal led to the target year for achieving this being changed from 2035 to 2030, so that this would be in line with that of Glasgow City Council's target.

Mia Clarke asked if there is going to be a separate Sustainability Forum to discuss the Green New Deal.

A McKenzie Smith said the SRC is going to organise a specific Sustainability Forum on this early next week. Further information will be sent to Council members in due course.

L Brady said the Green New Deal was circulated with the Council papers for this meeting and that the forum would hopefully take place on the Monday or Tuesday of week beginning 23/11/2020. Any feedback generated by the discussion will inform the SRC's decision as to whether to endorse the Green New Deal. L Brady said it would also be helpful for himself and J Hegele to gather this feedback in advance of discussing the University's Climate Change Strategy at Court on 25/11/2020.

P Aasen asked if the idea behind the forum would be for those interested to discuss the Green New Deal before a vote at the next Council meeting on whether to endorse it.

L Brady said the forum will allow Council members time to discuss and offer feedback on the Green New Deal before it is voted upon at a future Council meeting.

bb) International Students Officer: Patrick Aasen

P Aasen hosted an information session for International Student Support on Tuesday. The session went well and featured positive engagement. He said that concerns were raised regarding students who will be beginning their studies in January and the potential for loneliness and difficulty making friends for these students. These concerns were met with effective responses at the session. P Aasen said he has developed a positive working relationship with Jill Moore from the department.

P Aasen mentioned in his report that he would like to put on an event for students arriving at the University in November but due to prior commitments he is considering instead hosting an event over the holiday period for students who are staying in Glasgow. He said another option will be to wait until Refreshers' Week in January.

A McKenzie Smith said she would organise a meeting next week with P Aasen to discuss Refreshers' Week and ideas for events for the large number of international students beginning their studies in January.

L McBlain said the Vet School is staging lots of events over the festive period and that P Aasen should contact him for ideas if he wishes.

å) LGBTQ+ Officer: Indigo Korres Nte Paoula

Transgender Day of Remembrance will take place on 20/11/2020. Several events and activities have been planned. This includes an SRC video showing students how to add their pronouns to their Zoom accounts. I Korres asked that Council members add their pronouns to their accounts so as to create a more supportive environment for trans students. There will also be a video published on what TDoR means to students. The main event will take place from 6pm to 10pm and will feature 8 speakers, a panel organised by Amnesty International Society and an online candlelit vigil.

L Brady encouraged all members of Council to support the events taking place for TDoR.

P Aasen asked if the video showing students how to add their pronouns to their Zoom accounts could be posted to the Council Facebook page.

I Korres said she would post it there.

dd) Mental Health Equality Officer: Abigail Charlotte Whelan

To foster a sense of community amongst students, A Charlotte Whelan is discussing a possible Move for Mental Health campaign with GUSA Welfare Convenor Ewan Galbraith for semester 2.

ee) General Rep: Bailey Camack

B Camack has been discussing support for clubs and societies with A McKenzie Smith. Feedback suggests smaller societies are struggling to operate while larger societies with more cohesive social media presences are continuing to operate effectively. A three-stage support plan has been formulated, beginning with a survey for societies designed to generate feedback on the support they require, specifically in terms of bolstering their digital presence. The feedback from this will then inform a resources pack which will be given to societies with the intended outcome of helping them to utilise online events platforms to boost their membership numbers. In addition, there are plans to collaborate with societies in order to build up a portfolio of events for Refreshers' Week in January. Work

is also underway on a video which will be geared towards new students, promoting the benefits of joining a club/society.

L McBlain said free access to Canva for clubs and societies would be beneficial.

ff) General Rep: Mia Clarke

M Clarke said she feels the Home Student Working Group that she will be working on with A McKenzie Smith will be very beneficial to home students.

gg) General Rep: Jamie McKay

J McKay said he is working on providing support to clubs and societies and is hoping to organise some School-based events during Refresher's Week, as this a time when students are typically engaged with what activities are happening in the University.

L Brady asked J McKay if he was still experiencing issues with the Native events platform.

J McKay confirmed that the issues were now resolved.

hh) First Year Rep: Kirsty Craig

K Craig met with the 1st year representatives of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, with the feedback she received focusing on a lack of interaction with online learning. She said that some students felt they were required to carry more weight in terms of answering their Professors in classes than their peers who did not turn on their cameras/microphones. She added that mental health was also raised in this meeting. K Craig has also reached out to the other 1st year Class Representatives she has been in contact with.

K Craig spoke to a group of 1st year Class Representatives who were keen to hold an event for 1st year students. Ideas for the event include a cookery class or an environmental-based 'how to acclimatise in halls of residence' session. With the next exam diet and holiday period approaching K Craig said this activity is planned to take place in the new year.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she is happy to put K Craig in touch with the 1st Year Mathematics and Statistics representatives as they had a Halloween party together and she believes they would like these events.

K Craig thanked C Hashimoto-Cullen. She said she has been attempting to contact all Schools but would appreciate if any members of Council could pass on their 1st year Class Representative information to aid her in this task.

5) AOCB

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she received some questions on Student Voice regarding Class Representative training and asked if these could be referred to someone with more knowledge in this area.

C Hashimoto-Cullen met with Class Representatives and dealt with several minor issues. Two issues, however, remain, the first being that a lecturer on one course is refusing to offer corrections on assessed exercise sheets as he believes this would lead to students not completing this work. C Hashimoto-Cullen said this is an issue as it will result in students being ill-prepared for this lecturer's exam. C Hashimoto-Cullen will follow up on this matter.

C Hashimoto-Cullen put students from the 2 + 2 programme in touch with each other. This is a programme which allows students to study in both China and the UK. The students C Hashimoto-Cullen spoke to were struggling with the language barrier so she provided advice and referred them to P Aasen who will provide them with further assistance.

C Hashimoto-Cullen met with G Kokkinidis to discuss exams. The School wish to only stage very short exams but in order to resolve what approach will be taken for exams C Hashimoto-Cullen believes a conversation is necessary about how exams can be adapted to online learning. She will attend her SSLC meeting tomorrow, anticipating it to feature discussion of how well teaching has gone up until this point.

C Hashimoto-Cullen will contact the 4 new Class Representatives who she did not have before the Class Representative meeting.

P Aasen said that 2 + 2 is a 4-year programme where students spend 2 years studying in China before coming to UK universities such as Glasgow to complete their Honours years. P Aasen said 16 students are unfortunately currently stuck in China and experiencing problems with

the language barrier. He said he has been in touch with International Student Support regarding this issue. He said he expects C Hashimoto-Cullen will raise the academic side of the issue at School-level. He also said that International Student Support have provided links and resources to help with the language barrier and that he will pass these on to the students.

B Hay advised the SRC has a conversation café linking with students in China.

P Aasen said this is included in the resources he is passing on.

D Al-Obaidly met with the Class Representatives from the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing. She said most Representatives were happy with the communication they have been having with their Schools and that she was made aware of some common issues.

D Al-Obaidly said when she contacted the Medical School to obtain the list of Class Representatives, the School were very hesitant to pass this on and said that they themselves would contact the Representatives and ask them to get in touch with D Al-Obaidly. She managed to resolve this issue by collating the list herself and contacting and meeting the Class Representatives, however she enquired with School as to the reason behind not supplying this list directly. The School replied saying they had been in touch with their Senior Management Team and would be happy to assist with the coordination of Class Representative activity. D Al-Obaidly asked if Schools should provide this list or if some are permitted not to.

L Brady said the list is normally obtained through My Class Reps and there should be no difference between this and a list the School would supply. He said SRC representatives have had issues obtaining this information from the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing in the past.

D Al-Obaidly said she is concerned that this may pose issues for students assuming her role in the future, as this was also an issue for L O'Connor last year.

L Brady said D Al-Obaidly should try to establish a positive working relationship with a member of staff within the School in order to aid the handover process for her role and help avoid issues like this.

K Craig said she has contacted several people but has only been given access to her School representatives via My Class Reps.

L Brady asked if Council members had any comments or questions on J Hegele's Council report. There were no comments or questions on this.

T Kleczkowski enquired about obtaining an up-to-date list of Class Representatives as the list on My Class Reps is not up to date.

L Brady suggested T Kleczkowski speak to his School administration team as it is their responsibility to update My Class Reps.

K Craig said access is only given to the list of School Representatives though.

L Brady reminded Council members of the upcoming Sustainability, Academic and Welfare forums.

6) Date of Next Meeting –10th December 2020